

Remarks

Applicants request consideration on the merits of the above-referenced patent application.

I. Amendments to the Specification

In accordance with 37 CFR §1.78 and MPEP §202.01, the first paragraph in the specification has been amended to identify the patent application to which this patent application is claiming priority.

The title (on page 1) and Paragraphs 14, 16, 20-22, 55, 686-707, 726-729, 731, 734, 883, 1050, 1059-1061, and 1114 have been amended to replace "hydroxamate" with "hydroxamic acid". In addition, Paragraph 2 and the abstract (on page 634) have been amended to indicate that the term "hydroxamic acid" includes hydroxamates. Applicants submit that these amendments simply rephrase the specification, and are therefore proper under MPEP §2163.07. They also are supported by, for example, Applicants' description of the compounds encompassed by the invention.

Paragraphs 696 and 707 have been amended to replace "MMP-3" with "MMP-13". This amendment corrects an obvious typographical error, and is therefore proper under MPEP §2163.07. This amendment also is supported by Applicants' specification, which, for example, repeatedly indicates that selective inhibition of MMP-2, MMP-9, and MMP-13 activity is often particularly preferred when preventing or treating the diseases listed in Paragraphs 696 and 707. *See, e.g.*, Paragraphs 691 and 702.

II. Amendments to the Claims

This Amendment C cancels claims 1-121, 137-197, and 225-379. Thus, claims 122-136, 198-224, and 380-393 are pending. Claims 122, 123, 125, 127-132, 198, 199, 380, 386-388, 390, and 393 have been amended. All the claims, including the amendments, are shown in the previous section.

Applicants submit that the amendments do not introduce new matter. Specifically:

As the Examiner may recall, a restriction requirement was issued in the parent application on April 11, 2003. That restriction requirement split the claims into 21 groups. As noted below,